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Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

Working Party on Rail Transport

Sixty-seventh session

Geneva, 23–25 October 2013

Item 1 of the provisional agenda

Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the sixty-seventh session

to be held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva
starting at 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday, 23 October 2013^{1, 2}

I. Provisional agenda

Note: The session of the Working Party (SC.2) will be held back-to-back with the fifty sixth session of the Working Party on Intermodal Transport (WP.24) (21–22 October 2013). Details and documentation for the session of WP.24 are available at www.unece.org/trans/wp24/wp24-agenda/24age.html.

1. Adoption of the Agenda.
2. Workshop on Rail Security.

¹ For reasons of economy, delegates are requested to bring copies of all relevant documents to the session. There will be no documentation available in the conference room. Before the session, documents may be downloaded from the UNECE Transport Division's website www.unece.org/trans/main/sc2/sc2.html. On an exceptional basis, documents may also be obtained by e-mail (sc.2@unece.org) or by fax (+41 22-917 0039). During the session, official documents may be obtained from the UNOG Documents Distribution Section (Room C.337, third floor, Palais des Nations).

² Delegates are requested to complete the registration form available for download at the UNECE Transport Division's website www.unece.org/trans/registfr.html. It should be transmitted to the UNECE secretariat no later than one week prior to the session by e-mail (carole.marilley@unece.org) or by fax (+41 22-917 0039). Upon arrival at the Palais des Nations, delegates should obtain an identification badge at the UNOG Security and Safety Section, located at the Pregny Gate (14, Avenue de la Paix). In case of difficulty, please contact the secretariat by telephone (ext. 740 30). For a map of the Palais des Nations and other useful information, see website www.unece.org/meetings/practical.htm.

3. European Agreement on Main International Railway Lines (AGC Agreement):
 - (a) Status of the AGC Agreement and adopted amendment proposals;
 - (b) Amendment proposals (updating and extending the AGC network);
 - (c) Amendment proposals (minimum infrastructure and performance standards).
4. Euro-Asian rail transport.
5. Railway infrastructure financing and Public-Private Partnerships.
6. Trans-European Railway (TER) project.
7. Intelligent Transport Systems and other technological applications for Rail Transport.
8. High Speed Trains.
9. Towards unified railway law in the pan-European region and along Euro-Asian transport corridors.
10. Productivity in Rail Transport.
11. Climate Change and Rail Transport:
 - (a) Group of Experts on climate change impacts and adaptation to International Transport networks;
 - (b) Climate Change mitigation: presentation of UNECE ForFITS tool;
 - (c) Diesel engine exhausts.
12. Railway Reform.
13. Facilitation of international rail transport in the pan-European region:
 - (a) Facilitation of rail border crossings;
 - (b) Harmonization of technical specifications in different railway systems.
14. Rail Review.
15. Safety on level crossings.
16. Activities of the UNECE Inland Transport Committee and its subsidiary bodies.
17. Activities of the European Commission in rail transport.
18. Activities of international organizations in rail transport.
19. Election of Officers.
20. Draft programme of work, biennial evaluation and draft work plan:
 - (a) Draft programme of work and biennial evaluation for 2014–2015;
 - (b) Draft work plan for 2014–2018.
21. Other business.
22. Date and venue of next session.
23. Adoption of decisions.

II. Annotations

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The first item to be considered is the adoption of the agenda.

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.2/219

2. Workshop on Rail Security

As decided by the Working Party at its last session a workshop on rail security would be organized during this session. The Working Party requested the secretariat to prepare this agenda item for this session in cooperation with relevant public and private stakeholders and organizations dealing with rail security.. This preparation should be based on an exchange of knowledge and best practices in this field of work.

The programme of the workshop is available on Working Party's website (Informal document No. 1).

Following the discussions, the Working Party may wish to draw up conclusions on rail security and reflect on concrete follow-up activities for SC.2 at the pan-European level.

Documentation: Informal document No. 1

3. European Agreement on Main International Railway Lines (AGC Agreement)

(a) Status of the AGC Agreement and adopted amendment proposals

The Working Party will be informed by the secretariat on its activities to increase the number of Contracting Parties to the AGC Agreement.

Detailed information on the AGC Agreement, including the up-to-date and consolidated text of the Agreement (ECE/TRANS/63/Rev.1), a map on the AGC network, an inventory of compliance with AGC standards as well as relevant Depositary Notifications are available on the website of the Working Party.³

Further information will be provided at the session.

(b) Amendment proposals (updating and extending on the AGC network)

The Working Party may wish to note that, at its sixty-fourth session, it considered the status of amendment proposals from Denmark, Germany and Sweden and decided to wait for the consultations between the concerned Parties.

The Working Party will be informed about the results of these consultations and may wish to adopt these amendment proposals in accordance with article 11 of the AGC Agreement.

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2009/1

³ www.unece.org/trans/main/sc2/sc2_AGC_text.html.

(c) **Amendment proposals (minimum infrastructure and performance standards)**

In 2011, at its joint session with the Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics, the Working Party reviewed the minimum infrastructure standards contained in annex II of the AGC Agreement and annex III of the AGTC Agreement (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2010/1). Both Working Parties agreed that the Technical Specifications for Interoperability (TSI) applicable in the European Union were generally in line with the present minimum AGC and AGTC technical characteristics, but contained at least 20 more parameters that were considered essential for trans-European rail systems and had been prepared by the European Railway Agency (ERA) under the so-called Interoperability Directive 2008/57/EC. The scope of these TSIs went, however, well beyond the objective and the minimum requirements enshrined in the pan-European AGC and AGTC Agreements. Thus, all TSI parameters may not necessarily need to be considered for inclusion into the AGC and AGTC Agreements (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/216, paras. 11–14).

In 2012, based on secretariat note ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2012/1 containing also information provided by the European Commission, the Working Party noted that the technical AGC and AGTC standards were partly based on outdated references and definitions contained in the mandatory European TSIs and European (EN) standards applicable in the European Union. It invited experts to prepare, in cooperation with the secretariat, appropriate amendment proposals to the AGC Agreement, in close cooperation with the Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/218, paras. 16–18).

No expert advice on these issues has yet come forward. The Working Party may, therefore, wish to revert once more to this issue and decide on the need and the procedure to revise the technical infrastructure parameters contained in annexes II and III of the AGC and AGTC Agreements respectively (see ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2012/1, paras. 7–15).

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2010/1, ECE/TRANS/SC.2/216, ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2012/1, ECE/TRANS/SC.2/218

4. Euro-Asian rail transport

In accordance with the decision of its sixty-sixth session, the Working Party may wish to be informed and discuss new developments on Euro-Asian rail transport corridors, its involvement on developing the Euro-Asian linkages project (EATL) including the results of the Ministerial meeting “Making the Euro-Asian Transport Network Operational” that took place during the last Inland Transport Committee (ITC) on 26 February 2013 and the first meeting of the group of experts of Euro-Asian linkages project (EATL) that took place on 9 September 2013.

Documentation: Informal document No. 2

5. Railway infrastructure financing and Public-Private Partnerships

The Working Party may wish to recall that at its last session railways financing under public-private partnerships (PPP) schemes an important parameter for railways development had been discussed. The Working Party requested the secretariat to prepare a background note on PPP schemes and railways financing which should include the secretariat proposals for further development of these issues for consideration.

The Working Party may wish to review and discuss this background note on railway infrastructure financing and public-private partnerships (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2013/1) and provide guidance on further work in this area.

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2013/1

6. Trans-European Railway (TER) project

The Working Party will be informed by the project manager of the Trans-European Railway (TER) project about the activities undertaken in 2013; concrete results achieved and plan for subsequent years, including the updating and implementation of the Trans-European Motorway (TEM) and TER Master Plan.

The Working Party may wish to review the results achieved and consider how to further support and contribute to the TER project.

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2013/2

7. Intelligent Transport Systems and other technological applications for Rail Transport

In line with the UNECE road map for promoting the use of Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) that contains 20 global actions for 2012–2020 (UNECE publication, *ITS for sustainable mobility*, 2012), the Working Party may wish to be informed about and discuss how modern information and communication technologies can assist in making rail transport systems attractive and “seamless” among different modes of transport. The Working Party may also address the role and responsibilities of different stakeholders focusing on the role of Governments and regulatory authorities in providing the necessary framework conditions for discriminatory-free access to information by all parties in rail and intermodal transport chains.

The Working Party may wish to consider activities, on monitoring of ITS and other technological applications developments in rail transport and to provide a platform for the exchange of information and best practices.

Documentation: UNECE publication, *Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) for sustainable mobility (2012)*

8. High Speed Trains

Based on its work plan and following the decisions of the Working Party during its last session on the adoption of the proposed by the secretariat work plan for the development of a master plan for high speed trains (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2012/4, ECE/TRANS/SC.2/218) the Working Party may wish to be informed about developments in this area.

The secretariat prepared a review of existing methodologies that are implemented by different Governments and organizations on the development of high speed trains for review and discussion by the Working Party (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2013/3).

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2013/3

9. Towards unified railway law in the pan-European region and along Euro-Asian transport corridors

The Working Party may wish to recall that during the Ministerial session of the seventy-fifth Inland Transport Committee, thirty-seven (37) European and Asian countries signed the Joint Declaration and expressed their willingness to further develop and promote Euro-

Asian rail transport and activities towards unified railway law (ECE/TRANS/2013/2). The Joint Declaration outlines two parallel processes to achieve these objectives:

(a) Governments from ECE and ESCAP regions, under the auspices of the UNECE Group of Experts towards the Unified Railway Law and the Working Party on Rail Transport (SC.2), will prepare the legal framework for rail transport from the Atlantic to the Pacific, with rules equivalent to those for road, air and maritime transport (Geneva Rules);

(b) Interested railway enterprises, international railway organizations and other stakeholders (incl. shippers, freight forwarders, etc.) will prepare general terms and conditions for Euro-Asian rail transport contracts based on the existing COTIF/CIM and SMGS provisions (GTC EurAsia).

The Group of Experts held its fifth session on 4–5 July 2013 (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2013/7). The next session of the group will be on 2–3 December 2013. The main goals of the Group of Experts, as contained in the Joint Declaration that outlines the strategy (rail map) to establish legal conditions for railways equivalent with those existing for competing modes, include the following elements:

(a) Establishment of a unified set of transparent and predictable provisions and legal rules for Euro-Asian rail transport operations in all countries concerned that would facilitate border crossing procedures, particularly for transit traffic;

(b) Analysis of existing international modal transport conventions (rail, road, air, inland water and maritime transport) and related agreements, in order to identify provisions and procedures important for the establishment of unified railway law;

(c) Unification of international railway law with the objective to allow rail carriage under a single legal regime from the Atlantic to the Pacific;

(d) On the basis of a future material consensus on unified railway law, identification of an appropriate management system for unified railway law using the experience of international organizations in the field of the railway transport (Organization for Cooperation between Railways (OSJD), Intergovernmental Organization for International Carriage by Rail (OTIF) and others) as well as of international organizations of other modes of transport;

(e) Support for the widest possible use of electronic document workflow and intelligent transport systems.

The Working Party may wish to be informed regarding developments on the work of the group of experts.

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/2013/2, ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2013/2, ECE/TRANS/SC.2/GEURL/2013/7.

10. Productivity in Rail Transport

The Working Party may wish to recall that at its last session, it had adopted the proposal made by the secretariat on developing a questionnaire in cooperation with the Working Party on Transport Statistics (WP.6) on rail productivity indicators and requested the secretariat to prepare it and send it to countries for completion.

The Working Party may wish to consider a revised secretariat report (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2013/4) on productivity indicators in rail transport based on the replies to the questionnaire, on raw data provided by the International Union of Railways (UIC) and estimates.

The Working Party may wish to consider these indicators and provide guidance on further work in these areas.

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2013/4

11. Climate Change and Rail Transport

(a) Group of Experts on climate change impacts and adaptation to International Transport networks

The secretariat will inform the Working Party about the results and main decisions taken during the last sessions of the Group of Experts on Climate Change impacts and adaptation for international transport networks regarding rail transport. The secretariat will also present the final report - publication of the Group of Experts (UNECE publication) for consideration by the Working Party.

Documentation: UNECE publication

(b) Climate Change mitigation: presentation of UNECE ForFITS tool

The Working Party will be informed by the secretariat about the 2012–2013 developments of the For Future Inland Transport Systems (ForFITS) project, funded by the United Nations Development Account. The project aims at developing and implementing a monitoring and assessment tool for carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions in inland transport, including a transport policy converter to facilitate climate change mitigation. The assessment tool, including the policy converter, may pave the way For Future Inland Transport Systems, hence its name: ForFITS. The Working Party may wish to note of the following achievements of the project:

- Organization of an International Expert Meeting (IEM) to raise awareness, avoid duplication and solicit contributions towards the design of the For FITS toolkit;
- Peer review discussion;
- Global status assessment and report;
- Preparation of the ForFITS toolkit.

Next steps will include specific pilot projects in two countries for each of the five different regions, the development of an internet based user manual, capacity-building workshops and training activities for policymakers and technical experts.

(c) Diesel engine exhausts

On the basis of evidence that exposure is associated with an increased risk for lung cancer, the International Agency on Research on Cancer (IARC) concluded in 2012 that diesel engine exhaust is carcinogenic to humans. IARC updated its finding from 1988, when it classified diesel exhaust as probably being carcinogenic to humans.

The secretariat, following an initiative of the UNECE Environment Division prepared a document (Informal document No. 2) to provide basic information about some recent and important developments in transboundary air pollution; illustrate the results of recent studies on the harmful effects of diesel exhausts to public health; and inform the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics (WP.5) about technological developments of diesel engines or their replacement by electric engines that minimize or even remove any harmful effects to public health.

The Working Party may wish to consider the document prepared by the secretariat and provide guidance for its improvement and finalisation.

Documentation: Informal document No. 3

12. Railway Reform

The Working Party may wish to recall that at its last session, it had considered railways' reform an important part of railways development. The Working Party requested the secretariat to prepare a background note based on inputs received by experts at the last session and include proposals for further development of the issue for consideration at the next session.

The Working Party may wish to review the background document prepared by the secretariat (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2013/5) and provide guidance to the secretariat on the follow-up to this work.

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2013/5

13. Facilitation of international rail transport in the pan-European region

(a) Facilitation of rail border crossings

The Working Party may wish to recall that at its last session, was informed by the secretariat on facilitation of rail border crossings (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2012/6) which suggested implementing monitoring mechanisms for the new Annex 9 of the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods (1982) (Harmonization Convention). Upon the understanding that the proper implementation of the Harmonization Convention is under the responsibility of Contracting Parties, the secretariat and relevant working bodies of the international organizations concerned (OSJD, OTIF, etc.) could play an important role in assisting countries in complying with the legal provisions of the new Annex through the following actions:

(a) Development and distribution to all UNECE member States of a questionnaire which would identify and determine the current situation at rail border crossings in UNECE countries who are Contracting Parties to the Convention based on the needs and provisions of Annex 9 of the Harmonization Convention;

(b) Report to the Working Party on Customs Questions affecting Transport (WP.30) and SC.2 on the replies to this questionnaire and describe the current situation before implementing Annex 9;

(c) Discussion and preparation of an action plan during the SC.2 sessions on facilitating border crossing procedures for international rail transport based on the initial input received from OSJD;

(d) Countries should be invited to periodically transmit country reports on major achievements and setbacks in implementing the action plan;

(e) Development by the secretariat, in cooperation with OSJD, OTIF, International Rail Transport Committee (CIT), UIC and the European Union, of a comparison study monitoring the implementation of Annex 9 and identifying the results of its implementation every two or three years.

The Working Party adopted the proposed by the secretariat background document on implementing monitoring mechanisms and requested the secretariat:

(a) to prepare and distribute the proposed questionnaire;

(b) to prepare a background document – action plan based on the replies from the questionnaire and on information received from different international organizations.

The Working Party may wish to review the questionnaire (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2013/6) and provide guidance to the secretariat on the follow-up.

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2013/6

(b) Harmonization of technical specifications on different railway systems

The Working Party may wish to be informed by OSJD on progress in improving the technical interoperability between the 1,435 mm standard and the 1,520 mm broad gauge railway systems.

14. Rail Review

The Working Party may wish to recall that at its last session, it had decided on the structure of the biannual publication “Rail Review” and asked the secretariat to take appropriate actions towards its preparation and inform the Working Party of any developments at its next session.

The Working Party may wish to review the background document (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2013/7) prepared by the secretariat which illustrates the draft questionnaire that would be sent to countries and rail authorities for the collection of the appropriate data. The Working Party may wish to provide guidance to the secretariat on the follow-up.

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2013/7

15. Safety at level crossings

The secretariat will provide an update on the status of the new expert group on improving safety at level crossings, including the outcome of the meeting of the Executive Committee on 11 July 2013.

16. Activities of the UNECE Inland Transport Committee and its subsidiary bodies

The Working Party may wish to be informed about recent activities undertaken by the ITC and its subsidiary bodies (ECE/TRANS/224), in particular, the:

- Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics (WP.5) and its activities on Urban Transport and Mobility – Website: www.unece.org/trans/main/wp5/wp5.html;
- Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics (WP.24) on progress made on the revision of the IMO/ILO/UNECE Guidelines for packing of intermodal transport units (cargo transport units) – Website: www.unece.org/trans/wp24/welcome.html.

17. Activities of the European Commission in rail transport

In line with standard practice, the Working Party may wish to be informed about recent activities and plans for the future work of the European Commission (DG Move) in rail transport.

Documentation: Informal document No. 4

18. Activities of international organizations in rail transport

The Working Party may wish to be informed about recent activities and plans for the future work of other international organizations and stakeholders in the field of rail transport.

19. Election of Officers

The Working Party may wish to elect a Chair and possibly (a) Vice-Chair(s) for its session in 2014.

20. Draft programme of work, biennial evaluation and draft work plan

(a) Draft programme of work and biennial evaluation for 2014–2015

The Working Party may wish to recall that, at its sixty-fifth session on 3–4 November 2011, it had approved indicators of achievement for measuring its expected accomplishments in 2012 and 2013 (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/216, para. 55–56). In accordance with the decision of the ITC to review its programme of work every two years, the next review being in 2014, the Working Party may wish to review and adopt its programme of work for 2014–2015 as well as the relevant parameters for its biennial evaluation. The draft programme of work for 2014–2015 and the expected accomplishment indicators are contained in document ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2013/8.

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2013/8

(b) Draft work plan for 2014–2018

As requested by the ITC Bureau on 20 June 2011, the Working Party should review and approve its traditional 4-year work plan for 2014–2018, in addition to the mandatory programme of work and biennial evaluation for 2014–2015 (see above).

Document ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2013/9 has reproduced the work plan adopted by the Working Party on 4 November 2011 (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/216, para. 57) and approved the ITC on 1 March 2012 (ECE/TRANS/224, para. 94), indicating also proposed deletions, modifications and additions, as appropriate.

The Working Party may wish to review its work plan for 2014–2018 for adoption and transmission to the ITC.

Documentation: ECE/TRANS/SC.2/2013/9

21. Other business

At present, there are no proposals under this item.

22. Date and venue of next session

The next session of the Working Party is tentatively scheduled to be held from 24 to 26 November 2014 in Geneva.

23. Adoption of decisions

In accordance with the decision of the Working Party (ECE/TRANS/SC.2/190, para. 6) and established practice, the Chair will make a brief summary of the decisions taken at the end of the session. Following the session, the UNECE secretariat, in cooperation with the Chair and Vice-Chair, will establish a report on the outcome of the session for transmission to ITC.
